



Town of Westford Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

August 2015



Jodi Ross,
Town
Manager

jross@westfordma.gov
www.westfordma.gov/tm
978-692-5500

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Concert on the Common
Sunday, August 23
4-6pm

Cameron Senior Center
Veterans Luncheon
Tuesday, August 25, 1pm

Tick and Mosquito
Prevention Event
Saturday, September 12
9am - 11am
At Jack Walsh Field
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Deadline to submit a
citizen petition warrant
article is September 8th
at 12:00 Noon



Watch
Meetings Online
westford CAT
community access television
www.westfordcat.org

Dear Westford residents,

On August 7th the Agricultural Commission hosted an Open House at the Day Field Community Garden. The Commission provided guided tours to residents and Community Gardeners offered samples of the fresh, locally grown produce.

The season opening and ribbon cutting for Farmer Dave's at Hill Orchard was also held on August 7th. Farmer Dave hosted a neighborhood picnic on Friday, and on Saturday he provided guided orchard tours. Hill Orchard is currently harvesting and selling peaches, plums, nectarines and apricots. Apples will be ready soon. The address for Hill Orchard is 4 Hunt Road, and more information is available at the following link: [Farmer Dave's Hill Orchard](#).



Julia Baratta, Town Engineer Paul Starratt,
and Christine Dunn-Benson



Kathleen Spikle

This summer you may enjoy incredible local music talent! Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, and your picnic baskets to the Westford Common and listen to great music for free during the next Concert on the Common, supported by a grant from the Westford Cultural Council. The next concert, featuring Soul Custody, is being held on Sunday, August 23, 2015 from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

The Pedestrian Safety Committee will be presenting a report of their work over the past year to the Board of Selectmen at their August 25th meeting, which includes a recommendation for new sidewalk construction.

I am pleased to announce our town recently received \$34,036 in credits from our insurance carrier, Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association. These credits are received by participating in their risk management offerings, which includes training for employees and implementing a range of loss control measures and administrative procedures.

The October 19, 2015 Special Town Meeting Timeline is now available: [STM Timeline](#). Please note that the deadline to submit a citizen petition warrant article is Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at 12:00 noon.

We recently went out to bid for our municipal electric supply service and were successful to receive a bid of \$.0937/kWh. This should enable us to reduce our projected FY17 energy costs by about \$118,000.

(continued on next page)

The Board of Selectmen is still interested in hearing from residents regarding improving communication from Town government. The last day to participate in a Resident Communication Survey is Friday, August 28th, 2015. Please visit the following link: [Communication Survey](#).

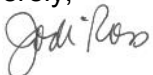
It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of Al Herget. Al was a long time Westford resident, also a veteran who served in the 65th Battalion of the US Army. He volunteered and served our community in many capacities, including being a member of our town's Finance Committee and Unaccepted Road Study Committee. Al had a quick wit and a warm smile, and he will be truly missed.

New volunteers joined several local board/committees this month. Kimberly Liner, Kristen Cambray, Peter Cox, and alternate Henry LeDuc joined the Agricultural Commission; Bernard Meyler and Alternate Edith Fruscione joined the Affordable Housing Committee; Ronald Deschenes and alternate Emanuel Manolopoulos joined the Nashoba Valley Technical High School District Committee, and Jack Clancy, Beverly Doucette became full members of our Recreation Commission, and Ulrike Kjellberg and Lee Ann Alden became alternates.

There are several openings on other local boards and committees, including the Arts and Technology Scholarship Committee, Communications Advisory Committee, Cultural Council, Finance Committee, Historical Commission, Tax Possession Sales Committee, and others, and I urge you to peruse our website for information about the work of these committees. If you have interest, please complete a Citizen's Activity form at this link: [Citizen Activity Form](#) or stop by and fill out a form in the Town Manager's office.

Would you like more detailed information on Board of Selectmen meetings? Click the following links to access: [Board of Selectmen Documents](#) & [Board of Selectmen Meeting Videos](#).

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross
Town Manager



Grand opening for Farmer Dave's at Hill Orchard.

Council On Aging - Coming Events

REPRESENTATIVE COOKOUT

Representative Jim Arciero will be hosting a cookout at Cameron on Thursday, August 20th at 11:30 AM. This is a great opportunity to meet with him.

VETERANS LUNCHEON

The Veterans Luncheon will be August 25th at 1pm at the Cameron Senior Center. The Luncheon will be sponsored by the American Legion Post #159 and our guest speaker will be Terry Stader, doing a presentation on the different Services provided by Veteran Services. Please RSVP (978 692 5523) at least two business days ahead of time so we can plan for food.

MINI GOLF AT KIMBALL FARM

Come out and enjoy a round of mini-golf on Wednesday, September 9th at 10:30 AM. A lunch will follow with choice of hot dog or hamburger, a drink and a small ice cream. A \$17 fee includes all. Payment is due at time of registration. Register early at 978-692-5523. Arrive at Kimballs and sign in at 10:15 AM.

KIMBALL GOLF TOURNAMENT

This year, we will be having the 15th Annual Cameron Classic at Kimball's on Wednesday, September 23rd at 9 AM. A \$17 entry fee will include 18 holes of golf, a hot dog or hamburger, a drink and a small ice cream. This has proven to be a fun day for beginners and low handicaps alike. You may register with a partner or as an individual. Payment is due at time of registration. Please call 978-692-5523. Arrive and sign in at 8:45 AM.

To view the complete Council On Aging Newsletter please visit our website at:

www.westfordma.gov/coa
and click on [Newsletters](#).



Westford Senior Center

Cameron Senior Center - Transportation Survey

In an attempt to better serve our wonderful senior population in Westford, the Cameron Senior Center is conducting this survey in hopes to get some feedback on a few important issues that have been in discussion.

A few reminders:

- Our first pick up in the morning is scheduled at 8:00, our last pick up for outlying towns is at 2:30, neighboring towns is 3:00 and our last pick up in Westford is 3:30.
Any pickups outside these guidelines should be discussed when scheduling your appointment.
- Donations are critical to pay for gas, van maintenance, and to keep our van service in operation.
- We ask for donations of \$3.00 for round trip rides in Westford, \$6.00 for roundtrip rides to neighboring towns, and \$8.00 for roundtrip rides to outlying towns.
- To keep our service running as efficient as possible, we ask that you call to schedule rides at least 48 hours prior to your scheduled appointment, a week or more is more preferable.
- Please allow a 15 minute window before and after your scheduled pickup time, we try our hardest to get to you at your scheduled time but that is not always possible.
If driver is running more than 15 minutes late you will receive a phone call from driver.
- Van cell phones are used for communication between the driver and dispatch office.
Please do not contact the drivers through these cell phones.

If you have any further questions or comments please add them at the end of the survey.

- Thank you so very much for your continued support and your feedback!

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1) Do the drivers assist you when needed? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 2) Do you feel safe and secure in the vans? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 3) Is excess speed ever a problem? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 4) Is playing the van radio (loudness, station selection, etc.) acceptable? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 5) Would you be interested in future day trips such as the recent Boat River Cruise in Concord? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 6) Do you have suggestions for other day trips? If yes, please enter your suggestions here: | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

- 8) All ride requests must be made through the dispatch desk. What is the best way for you to communicate your van ride requests?
- ☐ Call Chuck at 978-399-2322
- ☐ Email Chuck at cdutton@westfordma.gov

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Cameron Senior Center - Transportation Survey (Continued)

9) Our van service covers the following towns, which destinations are important to you for your appointments?

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acton | <input type="checkbox"/> Ayer | <input type="checkbox"/> Billerica | <input type="checkbox"/> Burlington |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chelmsford | <input type="checkbox"/> Concord | <input type="checkbox"/> Groton | <input type="checkbox"/> Littleton |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lowell | <input type="checkbox"/> Westford | | |

10) What is the easiest way for you to donate?

| |
|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donate per trip |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly |

11) Would you be interested in Christmas shopping at the Pheasant Lane Mall on an afternoon or evening in November or December? ☐ Yes ☐ Afternoon ☐ Evening ☐ No

What can we do better?

Additional questions, concerns, or comments:

August 17, 2015

Please fold and mail back to:

**WESTFORD COUNCIL ON AGING
ATTN: TRANSPORTATION
20 PLEASANT STREET, P.O. BOX 2223
WESTFORD , MA 01886-5323**

J.V. Fletcher Library

We're all aTwitter about our Tweets

You may have liked us on Facebook, signed up to receive our weekly enewsletter and now you can follow us on Twitter.

On Dictionary.reference.com the verb "twitter" is still defined, first and foremost as: "to utter a succession of small, tremulous sounds, as a bird." But in the online landscape where social media predominates, social messaging via Twitter offers the Fletcher Library the ability to send brief snippets of news that highlight, remind, or serve as a kind of SAVE THE DATE announcement regarding Library programs, events and important new service announcements.

To read the Library's latest tweets, look for the Twitter graphic on our homepage and then click on it, or if you already have a Twitter account, follow us @westfordlibrary.

To create a free Twitter account, go to [Twitter.com](https://twitter.com) on your computer or download the Twitter App to your smart device. Click on the "Sign up" link and create an account. Search "@westfordlibrary" and then click on "Follow" (to read our daily tweets) on our Twitter page.

follow us on
twitter



WWW.WESTFORDLIBRARY.ORG

Health Department

Health Department Welcomes New Director of Environmental Services

The Health department is pleased to welcome Jeff Stephens as our new Director of Environmental Services. Jeff comes to Westford, having served 15 years as an inspector in Fitchburg. He has already begun to work on numerous projects and we look forward to his service the residents of Westford!



Tick and Mosquito Prevention Awareness Day September 12, 2015

The Westford Health Department is happy to announce that we will be hosting a Tick and Mosquito prevention awareness day at the **Jack Walsh Field on Saturday September 12th from 9am-11am in Westford**. Our goal is to provide information to our residents and make our residents more aware of some safe and environmentally friendly ways to help reduce tick exposure. The Health Department has chosen Jack Walsh field for the event due to the popularity of the field. Vendors such as Pure Solutions and the Central Mass Mosquito Control Project will be on hand to assist and educate residents as well as provide safe and pet friendly options to treat and modify your personal environment to make a safer place to live.

Information on Rabies

Rabies is a serious viral disease that can be spread through the saliva of an infected animal by a bite, scratch or if the saliva gets into a person's eyes, nose or mouth. Rabies is 100% preventable if an exposed person is treated early. However, it is fatal if treatment is not initiated in a timely manner. Almost all of the human cases of rabies acquired in the United States in the last 30 years have been due to a bat strain of the virus. The teeth and claws of bats are so small that a bite or scratch may leave only a very small mark and the wound may not bleed or hurt. This means that under certain conditions, a person may not realize that an exposure has occurred. These conditions include: a sleeping person awaking to find a bat in the room; or an adult witnessing a bat in the room with a previously unattended child, mentally disabled person, or intoxicated person.

The essential components of rabies post-exposure prophylaxis are wound treatment and, for previously unvaccinated persons, the administration of both rabies immune globulin (RIG) and vaccine. Rabies post-exposure prophylaxis is always effective at preventing disease when administered promptly.

According to MDPH, 148 animals tested positive in the state for rabies in 2014. Skunks and raccoons accounted for 74% of all positive animals. Forty rabid bats (3% of all positive animals) were also found.

If you believe you may have been exposed, please contact the Westford Health Department at 978 692-5509 or the MDPH, Division of Epidemiology and Immunization at 617-983-6800 (available 24 hours) or your healthcare provider to discuss the situation.

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Health Department (continued)

Important reminders about rabies:

How can I keep myself and others from getting rabies?

- Teach children to never approach animals they don't know – even if they appear friendly.
- Report any animal that behaves oddly to your local animal control official.
- Enjoy wild animals from a distance. Do not keep wild animals as pets.
This is against the law in Massachusetts.
- Make sure your pets are vaccinated against rabies.
By law, all dogs, cats and ferrets must be regularly vaccinated against rabies.
- Don't leave food or water for your pets outside. Even empty bowls will attract wild and stray animals.
- Do not let pets roam freely. Keep them in a fenced yard or on a leash.
- Keep your garbage securely covered. Open garbage will attract wild or stray animals.
Keep your chimney capped and repair holes in attics, cellars, and porches to help keep wild animals like bats and raccoons out of your home.

What you should do if you think you've been exposed to rabies:

If you are bitten or scratched by an animal:

- Wash the wound with soap and water right away for ten minutes.
- Call your doctor or local board of health.
They can help you determine if you need to be treated for rabies exposure.
- If you were exposed to a wild animal, contact your local board of health -
they may be able to identify resources to help catch the animal that scratched or bit you.
If you were bitten or scratched by a cat, dog, ferret or cow, contact the local Animal Inspector who will monitor the animal and watch for any symptoms for 10 days.
If they stay healthy, they did not expose you to rabies.

What you should do if you think your pet has been exposed to rabies:

If your pet is bitten or scratched by another animal:

- Try to find out what type of animal bit or scratched your pet but DO NOT touch the attacking animal.
- Use gloves and a hose to wash your pet's wounds. Do not touch your pet with your bare hands.
There may be saliva from the rabid animal still on your pet, even if you don't see a bite or wound.
- Call your veterinarian to help you determine if the animal needs medical attention.
- If your pet was exposed to a wild animal, contact your local Animal Inspector –
they may be able to identify resources to help catch the animal that scratched or bit your pet.
- If your pet was bitten or scratched by a cat, dog, ferret or cow, contact the local Animal Inspector who will monitor the animal and watch for any symptoms for 10 days.
If they stay healthy, they did not expose your pet to rabies.
- In some cases, it may be necessary to confine your animal and watch it to see if it develops signs of rabies.
Your local animal inspector can help you determine if this is necessary.

For more information on rabies prevention visit the MDPH website at www.mass.gov/dph/rabies
or the Department web site at www.westfordma.gov/health

Recreation Department

Concert on the Common

August 23 4-6PM featuring ***Soul Custody***

The concerts on the Common are supported by a grant from The Westford Cultural Council. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets and picnic basket to enjoy some local music talent.

After School Enrichment Program

Westford Partnership for Children After School Enrichment Program started in 2004 is now accepting fall registration with printable forms available at www.westfordrec.com. The enrichment program is offered at all six elementary schools Monday through Friday starting with the first day of school September 1st. There are a variety of enrichment activities offered from homework assistance, science exploration, math, reading, storytelling, art sports engineering and new activities added throughout the year.

Middle School Rec Club

Held at the Stony Brook Middle School with Blanchard Students bused to Stony Brook. A variety of activities are offered from home work assistance, no-bake cooking, sports and games. The staff promotes three critical concepts: safety, positive youth development, and academic enrichment and support. Registration is on-line at www.westfordrec.com

Fall/Winter brochure will be mailed out to Westford Residents the end of August.

Look for a number of new program offerings.

The brochure will also be on-line once the printed copy has been mailed.

Parks News

The Parks crew has been busy getting ready for the upcoming sports season. The crew has been working closely over the summer months with the sports organizations that have hosted tournaments.

Half of Jack Walsh field will be closed to play for the fall season to do some intense maintenance work. The closure will help in reducing the soil compaction and allow for a strong growth of grass for spring play. The shut down has been coordinated with Westford Youth Soccer Association as the primary user of the fields.

Cemetery News

The contemplation garden at Pine Grove Cemetery is undergoing a complete over haul. Over grown plantings and invasive weeds have been removed. Plantings are being donated for the garden and a new walkway from the road to the Columbarium, which is adjacent to the garden, is being planned.

The Cemetery Supervisor has begun the removal process for shrubs that are overgrown and infringing upon adjacent graves in the Fairview Cemetery. Fairview is the largest of the six town cemeteries/burial grounds with many plantings that have become over grown and too big for the grave owner to maintain. Where possible and as a courtesy to the families or persons of interest they were contacted prior to the removal of the shrubs. Additional shrubs will identify for removal as this is an on-going project.

Recycling Commission

How to Use Your New Recycling Guide

Recently Westford residents opened their mailbox and found a valuable resource inside – the updated 2015-2016 Recycling Guide. Seldom among the unexpected ads and solicitations do we find something so useful in our mail.

Highlighted in the Guide is the Collection Calendar, showing the schedule for waste and recycling pickups for the next year, as well as dates for special collections like used electronics and more. The calendar is an important reference to use from now through June, 2016 – post it on your refrigerator or bulletin board where you can check it easily.

When do your containers go out on pickup day? Where do you place your recycling relative to your trash? How can you purchase a 64 gallon recycling toter or an Earth Machine composter? See those details in the Guide.

The Westford Recycling website, <http://www.westfordma.gov/recycling>, supplements the Guide with ideas on how to recycle dozens of other items and materials. Click on “Recycle Everything!” to find out where can you take used books, toner cartridges, button batteries, hazardous waste and other things you do not want to put in your trash.

The bottom line is, if it has to do with recycling in Westford, you can find it in the Guide – or, as an alternative, at <http://www.westfordma.gov/recycling>. If you cannot find the answer you are looking for, feel free to call a member of the Recycling Commission. Where can you find their phone numbers? Of course, they are in the Guide.

Electronics & More Collection

Saturday, September 19, 2015

8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Westford Highway Garage, 28 North Street

Westford utilizes the services of Northeast Materials Handling of Lowell, Massachusetts. This is a fee-based collection; CASH OR CHECK ONLY. OPEN TO ALL. The Town of Westford receives no proceeds from this event. Please see Recycling Commission website www.westfordma.gov/recycling or direct event questions to Susan Thomas at 978-692-1027.

www.westfordma.gov/recycling

**Thank you for recycling, reducing, reusing,
and repurposing!**



Town Clerk's Corner

New Residents ... Welcome to Westford!

We hope that you find this [New Resident Guide](#) to be a useful resource. The Community Directory available at Town Hall and many other areas has an entire section (the blue pages) dedicated to resources and services for residents.



Boards and Committees in Westford

Westford has over 50 boards and committees that rely on the volunteer time and dedication of more than 300 Westford residents and Town Staff. Committee membership and appointments are maintained using an online database and minutes are forwarded to the Town Clerk's Office and posted online.

And speaking of minutes, GOT MINUTES?? We are working to complete our collection of minutes from all boards and committees and invite former members to forward any minutes that you might have in your files to the Town Clerk's Office.

From the Agricultural Commission to the Zoning Board of Appeals, all meetings are open to the public and agendas are posted at Town Hall and online at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Interested in getting involved? Great! Here are a few resources for you.

[Online Board & Committee Database](#)

[Citizen Activity Form](#)

[Committee Handbook](#)

Not registered as a voter in Westford yet? It's easier than ever ... just go online! <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/>



When you register to vote, you may

- Register in a POLITICAL PARTY by selecting one of the listed parties (currently [Democratic](#), [Republican](#), [Green-Rainbow](#), or [United Independent](#)) OR
- Register in a [POLITICAL DESIGNATION](#) OR
- Register with no party affiliation by selecting "NO PARTY (unenrolled)," which is commonly referred to as "independent" meaning that you do not have a party designation

If you do not enroll in a party (i.e., choose unenrolled or a political designation), you may still vote in state and presidential primaries by choosing a party ballot and will remain unenrolled.

If you enroll in one of the four parties listed above, you may vote only in that party's primary. In a general election, all voters receive the same ballot regardless of party enrollment.

Become an Election Worker!

The Town Clerk's Office is looking for enthusiastic individuals who can work at the upcoming elections. If you are interested in this civic opportunity, please complete an [Election Officer Profile](#) and submit it to the Town Clerk's Office.

